

Standing Up and Speaking Out

Discourse on racial injustice

GRIFFIN SENDECK
features editor

As part of the fifth annual Day of Learning and Speaking Out Against Racial Injustice, “Whiteness: From Complicity to Solidarity,” five different discussions were held in the Fides Shepperson Suite of the Power Center on Wednesday.

The five events included: Hate in America: Hate and Extremism in Pennsylvania and Abroad; Working across Boundaries to Achieve Solidarity: A Panel of Partners; Race and Pedagogy: A discussion of Readings; Not Giving Up: Maintaining Our Commitment to Justice in Unjust Time and A Walk in My Shoes - Sacred Conversations on Race Student Roundtable Discussion.

The talks ran intermittently from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

During the Working Across Boundaries discussion, members of the Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, including a panel of formerly incarcerated citizens, a lawyer and a Duquesne professor, spoke at

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GRIFFIN SENDECK / FEATURES EDITOR

From left to right, Stephen Stept, Taii Thompson and Maggie McGannon were part of a panel discussion as part of the fifth Annual Day for Learning and Speaking Out Against Racial Injustice. This year's theme was Whiteness: From Complicity to Solidarity. The trio is from the Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice.

Hope for healing as vets speak at Vietnam Symposium

KELLEN STEPLER
staff writer

When learning about history, the facts often come from a textbook. But sometimes, the facts come from the people who lived through it. That's the case with the Vietnam Symposium at Duquesne. The Pittsburgh community will have an opportunity to learn more about the war, as told by veterans.

The Vietnam Symposium at Duquesne will be held in the Power Center Ballroom on March 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and light refreshments will be served prior to the event.

The event is sponsored by the Robert M. Rodrigues Founda-



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tion and is co-sponsored with the Office for Military and Veteran Students and the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts History Department.

Additionally, the Duquesne community was invited to a special Vietnamese Dinner on Wednesday, March 20, in the Hogan Dining Hall. Nick DuBos from Residence Life has helped organize the event the past two years.

The purpose of the dinner is to expose Duquesne students to the veteran events taking place on campus and in the Pittsburgh community. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with Vietnam veterans

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POLICE BRIEFS

Well, spring break is over, St. Patty's Day is over ... now we wait for Easter. While you wait here's a look at the shenanigans your fellow students have gotten into.

On March 13, a Duquesne Towers resident was found to be in possession of a small amount of suspected marijuana.

On March 14, the Resident Director of Brottier Hall reported that she had confiscated the marijuana.

Also on March 14, a student reported books taken from on top of a locker in the Law School.

On March 15, the buildings manager in Brottier Hall was doing rounds when they smelled marijuana. The source was located and the resident was issued a State Citation for Disorderly Conduct for a small amount of marijuana.

Also on March 15, another student reported that three books were stolen from her in the Law School.

On March 17, an underage, intoxicated student was found on Bluff Street by campus police. The student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on March 17, a student was found to be under the influence of alcohol to a degree that she was transported to UPMC Mercy Hospital for treatment. She was then referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On March 18, a third student reported three textbooks stolen from inside her locker on the first floor of the Law School.

The luck of the Irish was not with some of you this weekend. And Sister PB knows textbooks are expensive, but you don't need to steal them. We have a library for a reason.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Hallie Lauer at hallielauer18@gmail.com.

Bio science professor receives research grant

LIZA ZULICK
staff writer

Duquesne University's biological sciences professor, Benedict Kolber, was awarded a \$1.5 million grant for research on chronic bladder pain by the National Institute of Health R01. The award given to Kolber was from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases.

After four years of working on the grant, the project, "Impact of amygdala lateralization on processing and modulations of bladder pain," was given a five year grant to continue research.

The grant, awarded in August 2018, will be used to study chronic bladder pain and how the brain modulates bladder pain on the left and right sides of the brain, both sides of the brain have different controls.

According to the Interstitial Cystitis Association, bladder pain affects up to six percent of middle aged women, as well as some men.

Although there are treatments for chronic bladder pain like Aspirin, Tylenol, narcotics, lidocaine through catheterization and even physical therapy — they are known to be largely ineffective.

"Our goals are to try to identify the cells in the left side of the brain and the right side of the brain that are modulating bladder pain. The long term goal of identifying those types of cells are giving us new targets for chronic

bladder pain treatment," Kolber said.

The process of filing for a grant has many steps. After submitting a grant, the grant gets assigned to a group of scientists in a study section, which includes experts in the field from the government, academia and the industry. Next, scientific experts in the field come together with review criteria and discuss the grant. Since the NIH has specific institutes for types of diseases, the grants are broken up into these sections.

"For me, pain was just an interesting biological phenomenon because everyone understands pain. Hopefully people have just felt acute pain, but many people have felt chronic pain," Kolber said. "It's also interesting because it impacts every aspect of your life. We don't know as much about it as we should and the treatments we have ineffective."

Professor of Mathematics and computer science, Rachael Miller Neilan, also works with Kolber to create a computational model of the brain's response to bladder pain. The model shows the progression of bladder pain and chronic bladder pain over time.

"During this time, we worked closely with Dr. Kolber to understand how neurons respond to bladder stimuli and the experiments he conducts in his lab" Miller Neilan said. "With this information, we formulated mathematical equations quantifying the firing rates of different types of neurons over time and in response to bladder stimuli. We



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then simulated the behavior of hundreds of neurons over time and used the system-level properties to predict when pain occurs. Our model was able to successfully reproduced results observed in his lab."

Over the next several years, the model will incorporate additional data collected from Kolber's lab with the funding of this grant.

"Our computational model is important because it allows us to simulate scenarios that Dr. Kolber cannot explore in the lab," Miller Neilan said. "Each of his lab experiments requires a lot of time and can be costly, but the model can simulate scenarios and predict pain levels within minutes. Using the model, we are able to inform Dr. Kolber what outcomes he might observe during an experiment and help him design experiments that will lead to useful results."

Vietnam talk educates

SYMPOSIUM — from page 1

and their service dogs, meet the group, Friends of Danang, which is a Pittsburgh-based organization that does humanitarian work aimed at children in Vietnam, and meet staff from Duquesne's Office of Military/Veterans Affairs.

The dinner was be equivalent to a meal swipe to all students on a meal plan, five dollars for guests, and free for veterans participating in the program.

The symposium has been a part of western Pennsylvania since 1997, when Robert Rodrigues began teaching high school at Chartiers Valley (CV) High School. Rodrigues was asked to teach a course in "Leadership," and after studying the political science of it, he wanted to provide students an example, and the "Vietnam-Era fit perfectly," according to Rodrigues.

Rodrigues became an adjunct professor at Duquesne in 1991, and then wrote a Vietnam-Era course for the university, and has continued in the curriculum since 2001.

The symposium was held at CV from 1997-2017, and debuted at Duquesne last year in May 2018. Donations made on Eventbrite or at the event will support the Robert M. Rodrigues Fund "Good Citizen Award" given to a graduating senior at CV and for future lectures in this series.

Don Accamando, director of the office for military and veteran students at Duquesne, said

the event is of tremendous value not only to the community at Duquesne, but the local community as well.

"The Vietnam War was not a popular war in our history, but that doesn't diminish the bravery and honor of the individuals who fought for the just cause that started it," Accamando said.

"It was the first loss by the U.S. in a war and the returning veterans were not greeted warmly but in fact, were reviled," Rodrigues said. "There is a very high rate of PTSD among Vietnam veterans. They are a significant element in our community who have now found their voice as they age and begin to leave us. They are treasures."

The theme of the symposium is healing and homecoming.

"The notion of healing fits in with the mission of Duquesne University and its attention to the mind, heart and soul," Rodrigues said. "There will be numerous stories communicated by the panelists about their time and efforts in Vietnam and what they confronted when they returned home."

"This ties into the mission of Duquesne by embracing and lending a hand to those on the margins," said Accamando.

In both events, the ideas of healing and homecoming are still at the forefront.

"The Vietnam veteran deserves a proper welcome home, and it is our duty and honor to provide one," Accamando said.

Foreign aid sent to cyclone-hit Africa

(AP) — International aid has started trickling into the east African countries of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi to ease the humanitarian crisis created by floodwaters from Cyclone Idai.

Relief efforts that were initially stifled by airport closures slowly gained steam Wednesday and foreign governments began pledging aid to help the region recover from the worst flooding in decades.

"Everyone is doubling, tripling, quadrupling whatever they were planning," said Caroline Haga of the Red Cross in Beira, Mozambique, referring to supplies and aid workers. "It's much larger than anyone could ever anticipate."

The United Nations allocated \$20 million for a humanitarian

response to the crisis. The European Union released 3.5 million euros (\$3.9 million) in emergency aid, while the U.K. pledged up to 6 million pounds (\$7.9 million). Neighboring Tanzania's military airlifted 238 tons of food and medicine.

The United Arab Emirates plans to provide 18.3 million dirhams (\$4.9 million) to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, the Emirates News Agency reported Wednesday, citing the Emirates Red Crescent. Norway said it was providing 6 million kroner (\$700,000).

The U.S. Agency for International Development said Wednesday it deployed disaster experts to Mozambique and

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Panelists talk solidarity and change

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length about restorative justice.

This event, which ran from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., began as a tribute for one of the founding members of the Think Tank, Richard “Khalifa” Diggs. It opened with what was said to be his favorite song, “Breathe into Me Oh Lord” by Fred Hammond.

Diggs had been charged with a double homicide and sentenced to life in prison. In his time in prison, he started writing stories about his life. Members of the panel, Alexander “Big Lew” Lewis and Foster Tarver stood at the podium and read aloud a piece that Diggs had written, titled *See Me*.

Diggs died of pancreatic cancer in December 2017 in prison.

Diggs was one of the members of a class taught at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) - Pittsburgh by “Little Lew” Louis Gentile, and over the years they formed a strong friendship.

Gentile was the former director of the bureau of narcotics when he met Diggs. Even though Gentile didn’t receive any payment

for the course, he continued to teach for seven years, until the program was eliminated as part of a new action from the state to “get tough on crime,” according to Gentile.

Gentile was very critical of the program’s closure, stating that recidivism of the inmates involved dropped by 70 percent.

After Gentile’s program closed at SCI Pittsburgh, he received an invitation to become involved with the Elsinore Benu Think Tank.

The Think Tank deals primarily with the ideas of restorative justice with the fundamental idea that it is never too late for anyone to re-enter society post-incarceration. It meets Friday mornings in Canevin Hall, where the attendees “try to make a gracious space” and spend time learning “from each other and with each other,” according to Dr. Rick McCown.

McCown uses the phrase “bright spots” when describing panel members Taili Thompson, Alexander Lewis and Foster Tarver. After inmates are released from prison, they are statistically more likely to end up back behind bars in few years.



KATIA FAROUN / PHOTO EDITOR

McCown has referred to these individuals as experts regarding rehabilitation.

Thompson, Lewis and Tarver each shared their own personal stories of reentry into society.

The panel allotted time to answer questions from the audience. One student asked Tarver how, after spending 49 years in prison, he never gave up hope.

“Even if you can’t change your environment, you can change yourself,” Foster said, reiterating multiple times the importance of keeping faith.

Later in the panel discussion, a video-interview of Diggs was projected on the screen.

At the time of the interview, Diggs had been in prison for 19 years. In the video Diggs introduced himself and told how Khalifa was a name he adopted in 1977 in Allegheny County Jail. He said that it was derived from an Arabic word meaning “protector,” “community leader” and “provider.”

Diggs viewed children as the future. The last thing he ever wanted was to see children grow up headed down the path towards incarceration.

“They represent our future and without them, I don’t see nothing but destruction,” Diggs said. “If we think we can go on without our youth, there’s something wrong with us as adults.”

Diggs went as far to say that he would give his life to see the youth provided for. He wasn’t afraid of death, but rather, he was scared of not being able to get out of prison and provide for his family and community in the way he wanted.

“I fear not being able to be a human being,” Diggs said.

School of Nursing moves up in online rankings

MEREDITH BLAKELY

staff writer

The Duquesne University School of Nursing was ranked No. 35 this year in the U.S. News and World Report’s Best Online Program. The university has been ranked as a top-tier national school for 11 consecutive years.

The 2019 report surveyed 1,545 programs across the U. S. They are ranked by program quality instead of school quality by U.S. News and World Report. There are 23 nursing programs in the rankings in Pennsylvania and 3,000 in the nation, but only 189 are ranked. Duquesne University’s School of Nursing ranked No. 4 in all of Pennsylvania and No. 9 out of the Catholic Universities. This ranking is 10 spots higher than last year.

Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow is the Dean of Nursing at Duquesne University. Glasgow commented on the newly updated ranks saying, “One of the things I think is extraordinarily is when I started here in 2013, we were ranked No. 127 and now we are No. 64 for the Master’s of Science in Nursing degree. Our Doctor of Nursing Program wasn’t ranked at all and now we are No. 67, and Family Nurse Practitioner Program was not ranked and now we are No. 22.”

Five categories were taken into account while examining different online programs: services and technology, engagement, faculty credentials and training, expert opinion and student excellence. Questionnaires were sent out to institutions that offer online master’s degree in nursing programs. The U.S. Department of

Education defines an online nursing program as, “a program for which all the required nonclinical coursework for program completion is able to be completed via distance education courses that incorporate internet-based learning technologies.”

“It’s great to see this program moving up in the ranks,” said sophomore nursing student, Katherine Devlin. “It’s a challenging program that is getting students ready for real world nursing. The early opportunities are endless when starting clinicals your sophomore year it really broadens your connections and gives you more experience.”

Since Glasgow became the Dean of Nursing in 2013, the enrollment in the program has increased.

“What’s interesting is we have grown in enrollment since 2013. When I first started we had 700 students and now we have 1,200. It is not easy to increase the quality of a program and enrollment of students at the same time,” Glasgow said. “Besides the passing rate of the schools, it is also the amount of faculty you have in the American Academy of Nursing Fellows, which is very hard to get into. This and external grants have helped our rankings. The peer assessment is what other schools think of you, and other schools view us in high regard.”

“It’s the faculty. They work hard to do this; it takes a lot to increase your volume of students and your scholarships, fellows and grants. We are seeing the fruits of their labor. A Dean does not do this by herself, it takes everyone working hard,” said Glasgow.

Southern Africa attempts to rebuild with help from aid

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provided \$400,000 in emergency funding. The African Union Commission will give \$350,000, according to its chairman.

Matthew Pickard of the humanitarian organization CARE said the response to Idai has been similar to prior natural disasters. Local authorities and international non-governmental organizations worked their way to the area in the first days, with additional aid destined to arrive soon after.

The slow-moving catastrophe of the flooding and the inability to access some of the hardest-hit areas has limited the ability of some to see the scale of the cyclone. But, Pickard said, as those details become clearer, aid will spike.

“Over the next few days we’ll learn just how big it is,” he said by phone from Lilongwe, Malawi. “These are countries that are not usually making head-

lines and they’re making headlines. With the story comes people’s intent to respond empathetically.”

Sacha Myers of the nonprofit Save the Children, speaking from Maputo, Mozambique, described rising floodwaters, “rivers and dams bursting their banks” and a death toll in the hundreds that was destined to climb.

She was awaiting the arrival of a cargo plane carrying 51 tons of emergency supplies, but said getting them where they needed to go remained difficult with roads washed away or submerged and few options for storage in dry areas.

“We’re having an unfolding crisis that’s getting worse and worse,” she said.

The U.N. was deploying resources too, deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said, but logistics remained challenging and the hardest hit areas, including Chimanmani, Zimbabwe, remained

inaccessible.

As better data emerges from the disaster zone, donors will be standing by to make money and other resources such as medicine available, said Dr. E. Anne Peterson of the nonprofit health organization Americares.

“It’s early and a really big disaster gets attention fast, and the more media covers it, the more people realize there is a need and the more likely we are to see them getting engaged,” she said.

Ilan Noy, chair in the economics of disasters at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, said aid was likely to flow from dozens of countries to the African nations. How much is pledged and when, he said, correlates to the media coverage a given disaster gets, not to mention factors such as the geostrategic interests and previous colonial ties of an affected country. Ultimately, the dollar figures that are announced can



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bear little meaning, with the numbers typically stand-ins for the value of salaries and supplies sent overseas.

“They don’t have enough helicopters or they don’t have enough doctors,” Noy offered as an example. “In that emergency phase, it doesn’t really matter how you count it. You need resources. You don’t need cash.”

As the water begins to recede throughout the region, the extent

of the devastation will become clearer.

And thousands, perhaps scores of thousands, of families could be on the move, seeking new refuge after their homes were washed away.

“I salvaged nothing except this baby,” Chipso Dhliwayo told The Associated Press in eastern Zimbabwe, referring to her 6-month-old son.

Burials, which already have begun, will continue.

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"When you're willing to be vulnerable, you can surprise yourself at how strong you can be."

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Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

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College Kid's Pot Of Gold

CARTOON BY ROBERT GWIAZDA

in focus...

Social media plays dangerous role in proliferation of far-right ideas

OLLIE GRATZINGER

opinions editor

Our world is more connected now than it ever was before. In our hands, we hold access to every bit of information ever known; it's only a click away. We can send messages across the world in a fraction of a second. There's no doubt that technology has come remarkably far in recent years, and because of it, we've been able to accomplish so much. But the Internet has a slew of dark, cobwebbed corners, where disinformation festers and evil is given a platform.

It isn't that social media is innately bad. It has a lot of positive aspects, really. There's no harm in keeping up with old acquaintances in a way that's perfectly impersonal. Cat videos never hurt anyone. But ill-intentioned people have been using platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as smaller sites like Gab, Reddit and 4chan, to rally, connect, plan and condemn. Without regulation, the shadowed crevices of unmoderated sites are churning out evil.

The Tree of Life shooter, for instance, used the far-right social site Gab to spew the vitriol that ultimately led to a massacre. The Christchurch shooter in New Zealand, wanting infamy, live-streamed part of the attack on Facebook. The virality of so-

cial media has made it an ideal tool for far-right terrorists and extremists to use to radicalize and mobilize others. Hate speech hides under the guise of free speech, and ideas that were once on the fringe of civil society have become commonplace.

Social media has also made it easier for "fake news" to spread. Facebook is notorious for this, and despite the site's best attempts at filtering out the falsehoods and bringing in the truth, fake stories still spread like fire.

While some of the clickbait-laden articles are innocuous advertising ploys, other lies tend to push a right-wing political agenda. From images of a Nazi falsely claiming the man was a young George Soros — a Jew — to the "Pizzagate" scandal in 2016, the dangers of allowing social media sites to become the internet's own Wild West are very real. It isn't only partisan. Innocent people can and do get hurt. By this point, I think "fake news" has become synonymous with propaganda. If social media platforms are going to continue to exist, they need to do some serious moderation.

The greatest danger of fake news is that people believe it. We always have. In the 1830s, a New York newspaper ran a story incorrectly claiming that life had been found on the moon. The masses ate it up with such ferocity that rival newspapers ran it, too, and pretty soon, almost everyone be-

lieved it just because they'd read it from a source they trusted. A decade later, a radio broadcast of HG Wells' *War of the Worlds* had countless Americans believing Earth had been invaded by aliens. People packed up their things and tried to outrun an invasion that would never come.

We look back and laugh at the silliness of believing such out-there stories, but the common denominator is that the information came from sources that the consumer was familiar enough with to consider credible. The same thing is happening with Facebook and other social media websites. People trust the platforms, and they usually trust the friends or followers they have on there. Stories that are simply untrue gain momentum because they're usually interesting exposés or radical propositions shared not by anonymous trolls with egg profile pics on Twitter, but a friend from high school or an old pal from camp.

I'm all for free speech. Naturally, I believe in the tenants of the First Amendment strongly and passionately. But we can't just let anybody say anything online, especially when they can hide behind a screen and a mask of anonymity. Regulation of these websites might be necessary. Hate speech is not free speech, and fallacies cannot keep masquerading as facts. As a growing and deeply popular medium, social media sites have a responsibility to protect their users from not only ideological extremists and blatant untruths, but also from each other and themselves.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Mass shooters should remain nameless

Following another egregious attack carried out by a white supremacist, this time in Christchurch, New Zealand, the world is grieving the loss of 50 innocent lives at the two targeted mosques on March 15.

While New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has received worldwide praise for her handling of the crisis in its aftermath, particularly her immediate move to tighten the country's gun laws 24 hours after the attack, her approach has also sparked an international debate on how we as a society should regard perpetrators of mass violence.

In an announcement just days after the shooting, Ardern told the public that she would not be using the shooter's name in any capacity, stating "He sought many things from his act of terror, but one was notoriety...He is a terrorist, he is a criminal, he is an extremist. But he will, when I speak, be nameless."

By taking away the infamy the shooter hoped to achieve through his violence, Ardern's statement proves to be a powerful example of why we must begin to reshape our societal thinking and rhetoric about how to treat these extremists in news coverage. This is not only a debate to have in newsrooms on whether or not journalists should include a shooter's name in a story, but a conversation we all must start having in the wake of this attack.

In examining the online manifesto posted by the shooter leading up to the attack (an 80-page, rambling document laden with anti-Muslim and xenophobic sentiments, as well as lauding President Trump as "a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose"), it becomes clear what the motivation behind this attack was — recognition amongst the online white supremacist community that exists in the darkest depths of the Internet, and infamy around the world.

In using this man's name, he is given exactly what he set out to do in slaughtering innocent worshippers. Not only that, but many recent studies have also showed the dangers of focusing on the shooter and their life in national news stories and conversation surrounding mass shootings.

This phenomenon, known as the "copycat effect," has been the subject of thorough research throughout the past few years, following the uptick in the number of yearly mass shootings. A 2014 investigative piece from ABC identified 17 attacks and an additional 36 mass shooting plots in which a main motivating factor was inspiration derived from the 1999 Columbine shootings. A 2015 study by PLoS One states that "mass killings involving

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OPINIONS

New Zealand gun laws changed after Christchurch shooting

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

On Friday, March 15, I received an update on my phone that a man entered the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Center in Christchurch, New Zealand and killed 50 people. I was surprised that I wasn't being informed about an attack in the United States, but that did not lessen the pain I felt.

Within hours I received another notification on my phone informing me that New Zealand intends to reform their gun laws. This is practically unheard of in America. Mass shootings happen here so often and the people beg for change, yet nothing happens.

While it is almost refreshing to see common-sense gun laws being made around the world, I am frustrated that it is not happening in America, where mass shootings are an epidemic and a risk we face every single day when we exit our homes.

Before changing them as a result of this attack, New Zealand's gun laws were very relaxed. It was surprising to me that they did not have the issue that U.S. has with shootings. I have to say that in a way it proves that the problem of mass shootings not only lies within the realm of gun control, but in places like mental health reform. That is not to say, however, that I don't think the U.S. needs gun control. If you know me at all, you know that I actively support common-sense gun



COURTESY OF HAGEN HOPKINS/GETTY IMAGES

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern comforts mosque-goers, wearing a hijab out of respect for the Muslim faith.

reform.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, told the people that, "Within 10 days of this horrific act of terrorism we will have announced reforms which will, I believe, make our community safer."

I have to applaud Prime Minister Ardern for her prompt and graceful response to the tragedy. That is what a good and stable leader looks like. When mass shootings happen in America, our leaders send out mindless thoughts and prayers via Twitter and tell the people that it is "too soon" to think about gun reform.

I do not think the conversation in New Zealand about new gun laws has taken anything away from the mourning of victims. If you take a look at the news, there are still stories of the victims and vigils being held in their honor. In no way have they been forgotten about in the midst of common sense rhetoric about change.

Not only is gun control an important factor in this tragedy, but there needs to be a conversation about white supremacy here. Think about the demographic of those targeted. Think about who did the killing. It's not difficult to understand the motive be-

hind the attack. White supremacy is still alive around the world, and it needs to be talked about.

Despite this, President Trump said that he does not see white supremacy as a large issue.

"I think it's a small group of people," he said.

That sounds like something a white supremacist who's hiding his white supremacy would say. To publicly not see an issue about white nationalism is mind boggling, terrifying, and it sets a toxic example to the world. Not only that, but it gives white supremacists a green light to keep doing what they're doing. There is no end in sight for them in America and abroad.

Needless to say the shootings in Christchurch are devastating. It was yet another attack on people peacefully practicing their religion. It was another attack on the Islamic faith, which remains to be misunderstood. There needs to be a dialogue about this, as well — about the fact that the majority of Muslims are not what we see depicted on the news.

It is unbelievably difficult to see a sort of silver lining in times of tragedy such as this one. If anything of value comes out of something so heartbreaking, I hope that is common-sense gun reforms for New Zealand that will be heard around the world. I hope that conversations about white nationalism are brought on. If we do not start talking about these things now, we never will.

It is never too soon.

Lori Loughlin's actions highlight irrationality of admissions system

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

No parent wants their child to receive a bad education. Some are just more obsessed with their child's success than others. It's difficult not to feel sympathy for a parent trying to help their child. Yet all sympathy is lost when you realize that said help comes at the expense of everyone else. But if you came to the realization that your child couldn't get into a "good enough" school on their own, and you had the power to change that, what would you do?

How surprised are we that wealthy Hol-

lywood parents are bribing their children into elite schools? The concept of rich families paying extra money to get their kids into a "better" school isn't exactly new. But are the children of celebrities coincidentally smarter than the general population? Probably not.

When I first read the headline about Lori Loughlin — Aunt Becky on *Full House* for the people trying to live in the present — paying \$500,000 for her kids to get into the University of Southern California (USC), it felt like a BuzzFeed or Newsweek article reading, "Crazy Mom pays DOUBLE for her son to get into PUBLIC University!"

Sure the scam is terrible, but it's not

the first time something like this has happened. In Georgia, 11 teachers were sentenced to jail time in 2015 for artificially raising their students' test scores to meet performance standards set by their school board. The legitimate outrage from the millions of parents who've watched their children be crushed by the college acceptance process is completely justified, in addition of course to our own outrage because we worked hard in high school to get into college ourselves. Yet that ire could be useful if properly directed.

Of course the proctors, coaches and admissions officers should be terminated and face criminal charges, but the real problem is the culture surrounding the university admissions process.

An anonymous board member at USC recounted details from their board of directors meeting on the next year's tuition price. Allegedly, the board was in agreement that they would simply raise tuition by 5 percent because their tuition would then be higher than their competitors (Stanford, Yale, etc), indicating USC to be the best school among them.

I'd like to assume this practice has been relegated to a board room in California, but that would be hopelessly naive. Price does not equate to quality, but that hasn't stopped schools across the country from peddling their own narratives about their own students' path to greatness.

High school students have been hypnotized to believe that they won't succeed without going to the best school they can possibly get into. Should we fail in being admitted to our lofty "reach-schools," we fear being labeled less than thou for all eternity.

I'm especially guilty myself, thinking that I'd be set if I could just get into Northeastern University in Boston. They have loads of internship programs (referred to as Co-Ops, good grief), which would lead me to a career, and that would be that, so I reasoned. Upon my inevitable rejection, I felt as though I would never have an enjoyable job, and be miserable forever. Yet this reaction felt sensible; we're told in eighth grade that everything matters in high school because those grades will determine where we go to college, which will determine our lives forever.

English and history majors are being accepted into elite medical schools and biology and computer science majors are being accepted into elite MPP and MBA programs. Given these trends, why do college admissions officers visit high schools across the country with a mission to convince high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, that if they don't know what they want to do with their lives before they



COURTESY OF NEW YORK TIMES

Netflix has fired Lori Loughlin from *Fuller House* in the wake of her involvement in the admissions scandal.

see *SCANDAL*— page 11

Netbooks: an inexpensive alternative to laptops

KRYSTINA PRIMACK
staff writer

Although we are now more than halfway through the Spring semester, it's never too early to think toward the future and plan ahead to the fall. For continuing students, some of this planning might revolve around technology and budgeting — namely, students might need to consider how to choose a computer that provides for the academic demands of today's busy scholars, doing so while saving money along the way.

One solution is a netbook computer. How does a netbook differ from a laptop? Simply put, netbooks — sometimes also referred to as notebooks — are essentially miniature laptops whose purpose is to connect to the Internet, and to function as a basic word-processor. Netbooks do not have disc drives, but most models — especially newer releases — will include a microphone and webcam, just like a laptop, as well as common applications found on other operating systems.

Netbooks predate tablets as well, but even though tablets have their own niche in the world of technology and education, netbooks have remained a popular alternative means of computing. They rest in a practical location between laptops and tablets by providing the best elements of both kinds of technology.

This article will focus on sharing useful and honest information about the advantages of owning a netbook during your time as a university student, especially for those



COURTESY OF LONGTECH

Netbooks are small, light, cheap and convenient for college students.

that might not be aware of the specifics of this option. While this article does not endorse any single type or brand name of netbook or any of their technological counterparts, nor does it intend to discourage students from researching options for larger computers or tablets, it is helpful to have as much information as possible when presented with options for school supplies.

For instance, part of the appeal of netbooks is their user-friendliness. Generally, because they offer the most basic operating systems available, netbooks are accessible for technological experts and lay-people alike. The straightforward nature of these devices allows for an uncomplicated experience online and offline, which can be extremely useful to a student hoping to complete their work in a timely manner and stay or-

ganized while doing so.

To this end, netbooks are also lightweight compared to most standard-sized laptops. As such, they're less cumbersome to take out of a bag during class for quick note-taking, or to bring along for meetings and study sessions. Whether you live on campus or commute, saving backpack space and carrying less weight can be a significant bonus. Netbooks have smaller dimensions than laptops as well, so while you must anticipate that your screen and keyboard will be smaller, the overall convenience of this smaller size makes these factors easy to adjust to.

Additionally, netbook computers, in spite of their smaller size, can often prove to be the affordable alternative to brand-new laptops or tablets because of their relative simplicity and accessibility. On aver-

age, netbooks cost between \$150 to \$400 at local retailers and on Amazon. Compared to laptops that cost between \$500 to more than \$1,000, netbooks are more cost-effective if a strict budget factors into your decision-making process.

But, buyer beware: Netbooks do not have adequate processing systems required for more complicated programs, such as those used for statistics or video editing, or for running PC games. Even so, netbooks are still capable of running the basic programs that most students use.

Similarly, netbooks usually operate using free cloud storage systems that contain their own versions of word processors, such as Google Drive or Outlook. Therefore, the netbooks might not come with a more traditional word processor included, such as those used to create and edit documents, spreadsheets or slide presentations.

However, cloud storage systems do have their own versions of word

processors, such as Google Docs and Google Slides. Their layouts differ slightly from those used in Microsoft Word, for instance, but those differences can be adjusted to easily. Duquesne students with a valid MultiPass account can access also these kinds of systems through CTS and the Gumberg Library website, free of charge.

Whether you're on the market for a new computer, or simply want to learn more about what other kinds of technology is available to students, netbooks are a good place to start. What matters the most is knowing what kind of computing technology works best for you as a student, allowing you to plan ahead and decide what kind of device will best assist you on your journey to educational success. If that planning ultimately leads you to considering a netbook, then you can rest assured that they are cost-effective, easy to carry and user-friendly — all factors that can make a student's life that much easier.



COURTESY OF XDA DEVELOPERS

Google Drive offers a free cloud storage to space to everyone with a Gmail.

Astroid: excellent coffee hidden in the Southside

MAKENNA WINNER
staff contributor

New to the neighborhood, Astroid coffee made its debut in Southside just three months ago in December 2018. Nestled away near the West Lobby of the historical Terminal Building, on Terminal Street, Astroid is found bustling by its owner and lead barista, Emerson.



MAKENNA WINNER / STAFF CONTRIBUTOR
Custom artwork present by Beauty Shoppe.



MAKENNA WINNER / STAFF CONTRIBUTOR
The name Astroid is no typo, it is the name of the star shaped symbol famous for being part of the Steelers logo

With mint green walls and lemon geometric tiles amongst marble tables and slate white lights, Astroid looks the part of a Manhattan Millennium coffee café: chic and light, stylistically designed and constructed. This makes sense since it serves beans from a Brooklyn-based source, Parlor Coffee. The coffee is much like the space itself: consciously created with full-bodied personality and an individuality that cannot be matched in Southside.

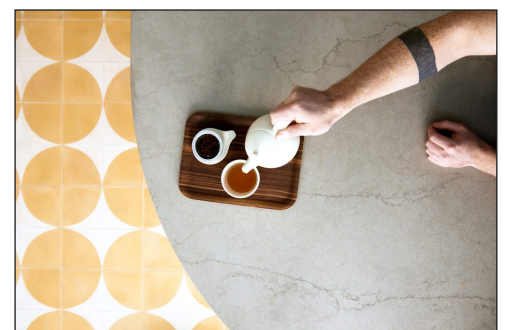
The menu is simple but satisfying: lattes, americanos, drip coffees, matchas, espresso, cortado, mocha, fresh chai. They also have seasonal additions. On the menu now is an amazing and brilliant option of

lemon and lavender lattes.

Not into coffee? They've got a variety of loose-leaf teas, and yes, even lemonade. This is a place that can both awaken the exhausted adult within you, or bring out the enlightened kid craving a chillingly cold, sweet drink.

"Espresso," their signature drink, is long-drawn and steeped espresso, prepared and calibrated for "flavor clarity and sippability." It's robustly brewed and willfully fashioned both for your brain, body, and tastebuds. A swift kick to get you going, this is my go-to for a very Monday-ish Monday morning.

Hungry? They've got you covered there



COURTESY OF ASTROID
Astroid offers a wide variety of coffee and tea.

too with pastries — (Matcha chocolate chip muffin is my go-to) — and sandwiches that vary daily. Savory and sweet, Astroid has something to conquer your hunger and thirst.

I've burrowed myself in this cafe for last two months, keeping this sweet shop a secret from those around me, in hopes of remaining in a rather quaint, guarded space. But it is no longer a secret I can keep — I now feel the need to share this place with the rest of the world.

It's simply unfair to hold such a treasure to myself. Head towards 3rd on Carson, turn onto Terminal Street, and walk on back to the left. Stop in and grab yourself literally anything on the menu — oat milk latte and matcha chocolate chip muffin if you're treating yourself — and you won't be disappointed. Tell Emerson that Makenna sent you. You can thank me later for sharing this secret with you. I can guarantee that you will be satisfied.

Everything you need to know about March Madness

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

March 17 was Selection Sunday, signaling the official beginning of “March Madness.” 68 teams were awarded a place in the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament, which means fans across the country can start filling out their brackets.

With nail-biting battles and shocking upsets a frequent occurrence, the NCAA Tournament is full of excitement. From now until the tourney’s conclusion on April 8, we will be watching as the field shrinks and drama unfolds.

It is one of the most popular annual



COURTESY OF THE UNDEFEATED

Gonzaga Bulldogs forward Rui Hachimura celebrates during a game versus Saint Mary’s earlier this year. Saint Mary’s beat Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference championship on March 12, giving the WCC two NCAA Tournament bids in 2019.

sporting events in the U.S. According to the American Gaming Association, one in every five adults are expected to place a bet on “The Big Dance.” \$8.5 billion is projected to be wagered in total.

To help you prepare for the March Madness sensation, here are some other things to know about this year’s tournament:

— The three top overall seeds (Duke, Virginia, North Carolina) all hail from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). The ACC is the first conference since 2009 to have three No. 1 seeds (Big East: Louisville, Connecticut, Pittsburgh).

— Duke looks to be the biggest favorite since the 2014-15 Kentucky Wildcats, who entered the postseason undefeated. According to ESPN, as of Monday morning, 53.9 percent of completed brackets in its Tournament Challenge have Duke winning it all.

— With its third No. 1 seed in program history, Gonzaga rounds out the top four overall teams.

— The tourney will feature eight teams from the Big Ten, the most of any conference. Those teams are Michigan State, Michigan, Purdue, Wisconsin, Maryland, Minnesota, Iowa and Ohio State.

— The last four teams to receive at-large bids were Belmont, Temple, Arizona State and St. John’s.

— For the first time since 2001, Minneapolis will host the Final Four. U.S. Bank Stadium, recently completed in 2016, will be the venue.

— The Atlantic 10, of which Duquesne is a member, will be represented by two programs. Saint Louis qualified by winning the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament,



COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Entering the tourney as the No. 1 overall seed, the Duke Blue Devils are led by several freshman stars, including Tre Jones (left), RJ Barrett (middle), Cam Reddish (second to right) and Zion Williamson (right).

while Virginia Commonwealth received an at-large bid.

— After returning from a knee injury, Duke star freshman Zion Williamson propelled the Blue Devils to a victory in the ACC Tournament Championship and the No. 1 overall seed. The likely future first overall pick in the NBA Draft averaged 27 points and ten rebounds per game in the ACC Tournament.

— Kansas is slated to take on Northeastern in Salt Lake City on Thursday, meaning the longest all-time streak of NCAA Tournament appearances rolls on. The Jayhawks last missed the tourney in 1989 but have qualified for each one since.

— Reigning champion Villanova returns to the field as a No. 6 seed. It will face No. 11 seed Saint Mary’s in the first round.

— Ja Morant, the Ohio Valley Confer-

ence Player of the Year and likely a top-three pick in the upcoming NBA Draft, will lead Murray State as they play Marquette Thursday.

— Abilene Christian and Gardner-Webb, of the Southland and Big South Conferences, respectively, will be making their first ever appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

— North Carolina Central of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference is the No. 68 overall seed, representing the lowest ranking in the field according to the selection committee.

— Seven mid-major programs were awarded at-large tournament berths this year.

— North Carolina State, Indiana, TCU and UNC Greensboro are among the more notable exclusions from the tourney.

ODU’s coach has cancer, putting basketball in perspective

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Old Dominion coach Jeff Jones says he never wanted his cancer diagnosis to affect the way his team approached the game.

But his players say it did.

Watching him cope with the disease, they say, has helped shape the Monarchs (26-8) into a championship-caliber team and has prepared them for the adversity of facing the South Region’s No. 3 seed, Purdue, in the NCAA Tournament on Thursday.

“There were plenty of times we were down and we could have gave up and gave in as a team, but we kept fighting,” senior guard Ahmad Caver said. “And (that’s) the same thing he’s been doing. He keeps fighting and coming in with the same energy. I think his being strong and saying encouraging stuff encouraged us to stay the same way.”

The 58-year-old Jones was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2015 and underwent surgery and radiation treatment.

But, the cancer came back in 2017.

Last year, it began growing again and Jones said he knew the symptoms of his treatment would no longer allow him to keep the news private. So, in September he announced the diagnosis to his team and the public.

“I wanted to control the message,” he said. “I wanted my players to hear it from me.”

He said he also wanted get the word out about the importance of early detection and testing, something the normally private coach realizes the platform of an NCAA Tournament berth allows him to do.

Jones is no stranger to the tournament. He played with Ralph Sampson in the early 1980s at Virginia and led the Cavaliers to five NCAA appearances as their coach in the 1990s. He also led American University to its first NCAA Tournament in 2008.

Jones has led ODU since 2013.

He became emotional, burying his head in a towel last week after the Monarchs beat Western Kentucky 62-56 in the league championship game. That sent the program into the tournament for the first time since 2011.

“I think there’s certainly an element of relief to finally be able to cross that threshold,” he said. “And then for me, on a personal note, because at times it has been a tough year, you know, I think it made it even sweeter.”

He acknowledges the cancer treatments and the side effects have made for some hard days. But he credits his staff with picking up any slack “if there’s a day where

maybe I just need to stay home and not come in in the morning. And there haven’t been many of those.”

His assistants and his players laugh at the idea that the illness may have softened the coach. He still yells, still works long hours, and has remained the same tough, demanding leader through everything, they said.

“To see him fighting makes us want to fight as well,” sophomore guard Xavier

Green said. “We do it for him. It comes naturally. But if he can do that, we can do this as well.”

There have been rumors that because of his health issues, Jones may retire after this season. He said Wednesday that’s not going to happen.

“Coaching is not just something I do, that’s who I am,” he said. “The idea of not coaching, the idea of retirement, that’s not even on the radar at this point.”



JPG AP PHOTO

Old Dominion celebrates following its C-USA Championship victory over Western Kentucky on March 16.

Coaches upset after ESPN botches NCAA bracket rollout

NEW YORK (AP) — Geno Auriemma was sitting in his office after practice Monday when UConn's video coordinator came in and said he had the entire NCAA Tournament women's bracket.

At first, Auriemma thought it was a fake. After studying it for a few minutes, the Hall of Fame coach knew it was the real thing, even with his team seeded second for the first time since 2006.

The bracket was mistakenly put out by ESPN hours before the network had scheduled its selection show. ESPN apologized and decided with the NCAA to air an early selection show to release the brackets while screenshots of the field were shared across social networks.

"It had a little comic feel to it, a little slapstick," Auriemma said. "I don't understand why they don't do it (Sunday) night. The men's thing comes on at what time? Six? Come on at 5 o'clock, get it over with. Everybody will watch it. Everyone will have fun with it. Then go to the men's thing and you know, over and done with. How are you going to keep a secret? If they had that thing all ready since Sunday, probably, that's a long time to keep something from screwing up."

NCAA selection committee chair Rhonda Lundin Bennett said ESPN and the committee did the best they could to try and

preserve some sort of experience for the teams once the bracket was revealed early.

Baylor, the No. 1 overall seed, was on the practice court when images of the bracket were first being posted online. Coach Kim Mulkey found out about it in a text after practice, before going to the team's annual viewing party with Lady Bears fans.

"I can't quit laughing, to be honest with you. Feel sorry because somebody might get fired over this," Mulkey said. "The good part was that we got an extra hour (on ESPN) ... I don't know in all my years that we've got that much airtime on the day of the bracket reveal. That's the positive. Somebody, I guarantee you, is nervous right now. Doesn't take away the joy from me. Most exciting time of the year."

Teams tried to make the best of the situation. While some did cancel their viewing parties, others still celebrated their accomplishments, even going so far as to sequester the players after practice so they could still enjoy the experience without it being spoiled.

Fordham players were lifting weights when the bracket got out. An assistant coach went to the weight room and asked the team if they wanted to know where they were seeded. The Rams, who last played in the NAAs in 2014, voted not to know. At the team's celebration, fans

were told not to say anything to the players since they didn't know yet who they were playing. Unfortunately, ESPN had the pairings on the side of its screen during its selection show, so the Rams didn't actually get to have a moment to see their name revealed.

Towson, which is facing UConn in the opening round, is making its first appearance in the NAAs. Coach Diane Richardson was in the middle of her weekly radio show when she was informed that the bracket had been revealed early. She finished the show and the team hustled down to the locker room to watch the selection show, which aired two hours earlier than planned. While the team made it in time, some of them already knew they'd be facing the Huskies.

"I wanted the players to see that and see our name flash on the board and be surprised and happy at the same time," Richardson said. "That took away from it."

Michigan coach Kim Barnes Arico was disappointed that the bracket got out early. She implored her players to not look at their phones and enjoy watching the selection show.

"There are few surprises in life," she said. "One of the greatest surprises for me was when I had my three children and I didn't find out their sex until they

were born. So I told them to try and not to go into the locker room and check your phone, enjoy the moment."

What frustrated Barnes Arico, and many other coaches, was that the second selection show didn't show her team's place in the bracket. The Wolverines are an 8 seed facing Kansas State in Louisville.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity for the kids," she said. "We went back to the recorded show to see our name get thrown up there."



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

ESPN inadvertently leaked the NCAA Tournament women's bracket on Sunday evening.

Wide-open field gives NCAA women's bracket new look

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in a long while there's no clear favorite to win the women's NCAA Tournament. At least a half dozen teams, including No. 1 overall seed Baylor and defending champion Notre Dame, could be cutting down the nets in April.

Over the past 12 years, Tennessee, Baylor and UConn have made dominant runs that ended in titles. There have also been monumental upsets to stop these seemingly unbeatable teams.

This year's bracket features some really good teams up top who have all lost to each other or, surprisingly, to unranked teams.

Baylor's only loss this season was to Stanford in December. Notre Dame fell to UConn and unranked North Carolina but beat Louisville twice. The Cardinals topped UConn for the first time under coach Jeff Walz. Mississippi State ran through the SEC except for a slip against Missouri. The Lady Bulldogs also lost this season at Oregon, and they could face the Ducks again in the regional final in Portland.

ESPN analyst Rebecca Lobo sees this season as something different from the past few years where one team stood above the rest entering March. In seven of the previous 10 years there was at least one unbeaten team going into the tournament.

"There was an overwhelming favorite going into the NCAA Tournament and the question was can anyone close the gap and compete with them? That's not the narrative this year," she said. "It's pretty exciting. You can't feel like you can go chalk in your brackets."

A look at some of the top contenders to be crowned in Tampa, Florida, on April 7:

— **Baylor:** Probably no team in the

country can equal the frontline of 6-foot-8 Kalani Brown and 6-6 Lauren Cox. Coach Kim Mulkey also has talented guards by grad transfer Chloe Jackson and Juicy Landrum. Baylor is eyeing its first Final Four since 2012.

"We've had a remarkable year. This team deserves the No. 1 seed, and we'll take that," Mulkey said. "But it guarantees us nothing. Our focus will be on Abilene Christian, and should we be fortunate enough to win that, we'll watch and scout Cal and North Carolina."

— **Notre Dame:** There might not be a more complete team. The Fighting Irish return most of the group that won the school's first national championship in 18 years last season. Still, there was a surprising home loss to UConn and a defeat at North Carolina. But they have won nine straight and perhaps no team is playing better. All the wins in the streak — five over ranked teams — have come by double digits, with the Irish averaging 96 points.

"We are playing great basketball right now. I think all five of our starters are playing to their potential," coach Muffet McGraw said. "They are doing everything they can do. We're playing well as a team. Our chemistry is terrific. We've been playing a little better defensively. I love the way we're rebounding but our offense has really been unbelievable."

— **Mississippi State:** It's already a special year for Vic Schaefer's squad with a regular-season and tournament SEC title. It's the first time they won the conference tournament. It's all the more impressive considering Schaefer had to work in four new starters to go with Teaira McCowan. The Lady Bulldogs

have reached the NCAA championship game the past two seasons, but fell short each time. Could a third trip change that?

"It's just really phenomenal to go 30-2, win the SEC regular season outright and then come back and win the tournament championship," Schaefer said. "My hat's off to this team. They have been tremendous."

— **Louisville:** The Cardinals had one of their best seasons, sharing the ACC regular-season title. They were missing key players Sam Fuehring and Arica Carter for the ACC Tournament title game against Notre Dame but are healthy now. Walz expects both to play in the NAAs. That will make things easier for player of the year candidate Asia Durr.

The Cardinals earned a top seed and will head to Albany, New York, where they could have a rematch with UConn.

"I honestly thought the entire time we



AP PHOTO

Kim Mulkey, head coach of top-seeded Baylor.

were going to be a No. 1 or No. 2 seed in Albany," Walz said. "Being a No. 1 seed is great, I think it speaks volumes for what we've been able to establish here."

— **UConn:** For the first time since 2006 the Huskies aren't a No. 1 seed. All that's done is add a chip on the shoulder of Geno Auriemma and his players.

"We're going to do everything we can to prove everyone wrong," senior Napheesa Collier said. "We're going to come in with that much more fire and that much more wanting to beat everyone."

Few have been playing better than Collier the last month. She carried the Huskies to the American Athletic Conference Tournament title while Katie Lou Samuelson was recovering from a back injury. Samuelson is good to go for the tournament and will try and help UConn extend its NCAA record run of consecutive Final Four appearances to a dozen.

— **Oregon:** The Ducks have been one of the most entertaining teams with a high-powered offense led by junior guard Sabrina Ionescu. They hit a slight bump with a loss at Oregon State during the regular season and a Pac-12 Tournament title game defeat to Stanford. Still, they proved all season they are one of the nation's best, and never better than their eye-popping 40-point win at Stanford.

The Ducks won't have to leave the state to get to the Final Four, with two home games and then a trip to Portland for the regional.

"If we're fortunate enough to get to Portland it will be great to have a chance to play in front of a lot of Ducks fans for a chance to reach the Final Four for the first time," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said.

Action film *Triple Frontier* fails to justify runtime

NEIL RUNGE
staff writer

Imagine a little over two hours of action-packed, beautifully shot yet dialogue heavy boredom. If that feels like a contradiction, it is. It's an oxymoron titled, *Triple Frontier*.

Netflix's newest movie, directed by J. C. Chandor, was released March 13. It is star-studded and has peaks of action, but ultimately drags like molasses through its runtime.

The film is about a group of five retired special forces operatives deciding that they've gone long enough without proper payment for the work they've done, including saving lives and risking their own.

Starring Oscar Isaac, Ben Affleck, Charlie Hunnam, Pedro Pascal and Garrett Hedlund as the five former operatives, they play them well: All of them bring deep performances of diverse personalities. There'd be no surprise if any one of them eventually win an award for this movie.

Their plan to get the money they feel they deserve starts going awry in about the first 40 minutes. The other 85 minutes deal with the consequences of stealing from a drug lord's house in the middle of the jungle.

Even the action dragged. Every

second of each scene just seemed to go by at a snail's pace. The summaries and trailers released before the film gave it a more *Ocean's Eleven*-but-with-soldiers feel. That's what was expected going into it, but with the first quarter of the film, the gathering of allies and planning are all taken care of and the heist is done.

There just wasn't enough time spent on learning about the characters. Less time should've been spent on shoveling stolen money into duffel bags and more on actual character development. They aimed for deep characters and just missed the target. Each of the retired men could've been shown as deep, complex people. They just weren't. Their arcs were sidelined for easy-to-understand stereotypes and labels.

The lead actors and supporting cast made the movie enjoyable. They were this movie's saving grace. The way they handled the half-made characters left me wishing for more backstory. Curiosity about their lives was what kept this viewer drawn in.

It would've been emotionally draining to get through this movie without the acting skills the incredible actors brought to the table.

It also helped that the movie was beautifully shot. Shooting on location in Hawaii and Co-



Oscar Isaac and Ben Affleck as "Pope" and "Redfly," the film's main protagonists. COURTESY OF NETFLIX

lumbia helped this film tremendously. Had it been shot against a green screen, the environmental struggles the characters go through would've felt fake. Watching them drag duffel bags of money through the jungle and over mountains built the world of the movie far more than anything digitally done could have.

Beautiful sweeping shots of forest scenery and great acting didn't stop *Triple Frontier* from being a boring movie. It was weighed down by unnecessary drawn out scenes of the charac-

ters speaking to each other about random topics, scenes of speaking to villagers or arguments based on things that should've been common sense. All these things just added up to just an abundance of talking. Much of it could have and should have been left on the cutting room floor.

Chandor released a film that was stretched over a two hour and five minutes runtime. It would've been a more enjoyable story had it been kept to something more sweet and short for the action genre.

WEEK'S EVENTS

DIY Marble Mugs
March 25 @ 9 p.m.

In the NiteSpot, professional chemistry fraternity Alpha Chi Sigma will host an event where attendees can decorate custom mugs with a colorful marbled style.

Duquesne Pajama Party
March 22 @ 7 p.m.

Hosted by the Brottier staff in the Towers Multi-Purpose Room, this event will feature "pizza, popcorn, ice cream, video games, movies, crafting, face masks and more!"

UPCOMING RELEASES

Us
Friday, March 22

Jordan Peele's much-anticipated second directorial project, following 2017's *Get Out*, has already secured a "Certified Fresh" rating on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes.

American Football (3)
American Football
Friday, March 22

The third self-titled LP from the cult-classic emo rock band American Football drops this weekend — their second LP since their 14-year hiatus ended in 2014.

MICRO REVIEW

Avengers: Endgame Trailer

The trailer with scenes from previous Marvel movies is in a black, white and red theme to highlight not only the sadness of the situation after the ending of *Avengers: Infinity War*, but how this movie is the culmination of more than 10 years of filmmaking. It gives a small glimpse into the desperate struggle the Avengers will undergo, doing "whatever it takes" to defeat Thanos and possibly reverse the damage he's done.

-Griffin Sendek

HOROSCOPES



Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Celebrate your birthday in style — with an Incline chicken sandwich.



Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

Go stupid!
Go crazy!
Go stupid!



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

You forgot about the Libermann Pizza — but I didn't.



Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

Your family is forever torn apart, as all your relatives announce they are running in the Democratic primary.



Leo

(July 23-August 22)

Endless Breadsticks, a phrase that once inspired joy, will provoke only horrifying memories from now on.



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

Please come back to me Delilah, I didn't mean to hurt you.



Libra

(September 23-October 22)

Spring has sprung! Now nobody will judge you for wearing that Garfield-themed men's romper.



Scorpio

(October 23-November 22)

You will make a new friend this week! Her name? Loneliness.



Sagittarius

(November 23-December 22)

Scarlett Johansson will portray you in a film this week!



Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

An old flame will be reignited when your landlord repairs your oven's pilot light.



Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

Good news — the girl that turned you down last week just realized she can't do any better than you.



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

Your week will be fine, so long as you
[REDACTED]

Weezer's 'Black Album' another disappointing entry

SALENA MORAN & EVAN PENROD
staff writers

Weezer proves they will “do the things they wanna do” even if that means releasing their bland and forgettable 13th studio release, *Black Album*. Following the *Teal Album* (2019) and the *White Album* (2016), the anticipated *Black Album* was quoted by Rivers Cuomo, Weezer's frontman, as being a “beach boys gone dark” and listeners originally anticipated a more serious Weezer album compared to their brighter, 90s/00s rock persona. The *Black Album* came out to a tough crowd already poking fun at the recent *Teal Album* featuring covers of famous songs in the traditional Weezer style from “Africa” by Toto to Black Sabbath's “Paranoid.”

The *Black Album* released March 1 and promised a more somber tone from Weezer never previously explored. While Weezer was hoping to reinvent the wheel with an edgier side, the overall album came across as just another Weezer album on the shelf of disappointments — except, of course, for *Blue Album* (1994) and *Pinkerton* (1996). The *Black Album* feels so formulaic and generic, barely leaving a lasting impression.

Pinkerton's (1996) more serious tone initially received unfavorable reviews, but

it eventually evolved into an acclaimed album in the realm of great Weezer discography. With a similar description for the *Black Album*, traditional fans appeared hopeful for another album of hits. Instead, listeners received a mix of Top 40 influences mixed with odd pop-synth sound. Unfortunately, you cannot please everyone, but something is definitely missing from this new *Black Album*.

A few of the standout songs include “High as a Kite” and “Zombie Bastards,” which feel reminiscent of Weezer's early 2000s sound. Moreover, the songwriting overall has some of Weezer's most poignant and sensible lyricism yet. Perhaps these highlights are the only two saving graces of this album that prevent it from being a total bust, however these aspects are clearly overshadowed.

Most of the songs attempt peculiar musical choices like talk-singing. In “Too Many Thoughts” and “Within my Head,” the talk-singing verses felt forced and out of place when compared to lead singer Rivers Cuomo's iconic Weezer vocals. With the addition of the outrageous drum beat in “California Snow,” these tracks earned their spots as some of Weezer's worst ever.

Perhaps the most infuriating aspect of this album is that there are hints of greatness that, with enough care and attention to quality, could have made for a much more



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC

The cover for Weezer's *Black Album* is a darker take — literally — on their previous solid-color albums.

satisfying final product. The entire album is held back by disastrous and/or average pieces that almost sound too rushed, resulting in a rather forgettable album.

The idea that Weezer's biggest hit in the last few years has been their meme-worthy cover of “Africa” by Toto has just left a bad taste in the mouths of traditional Weezer fans. The *White Album* (2016) provided a glimmer of hope for Weezer's future, but also resulted in disappointment as an accomplishment that could never be reached

again. Although the future of Weezer albums is up in the air, the band is commendable for always “doing it their own way and never giving up.”

In the end, it is a shame that lyrically, this album is as fantastic as ever in parts; however, this aspect was white noise in the grand scope of the overall album. Weezer should just write for boy bands and for Top 40 bands because the traditional Weezer sound, like our hope in a great comeback, has faded away long ago.

Queer Eye even more inclusive, but there's still work to be done

OLLIE GRATZINGER
opinions editor

Grab a box of tissues, because the Fab 5 made an emotional return to Netflix on March 15 in the third season of *Queer Eye*. Making the move from Atlanta and surrounding towns, season 3 moves northwest to Kansas City, Missouri. A new set of “heroes” undergo some major lifestyle makeovers with a little help from interior designer Bobby Berk; food expert Antoni Porowski; cultural counselor Karamo Brown; grooming master Jonathan Van Ness and fashionista Tan France.

Queer Eye has always been well-known for its tear-jerking optimism and blatant positivity, and season 3 is no exception. A quintet of gay men step into the rural homes of strangers, and they're welcomed warmly by not only the hero, but by their community too. In an intensively divisive era, people whose differences are vast and ample come together and form friendly mentorships, free from judgment and condemnation. The show gives a little sliver of hope that goodness and love aren't out of the race just yet.

Each episode ends with an event that brings the hero together with loved ones to celebrate their identity — a major theme of the season.

One hero, Jess, identifies as a lesbian, and prefers androgyny, fluctuating between masculinity and femininity. Rather than try to force her into a box, the Fab 5 embraced her sense of style and encour-

aged her to experiment with looks that felt right. Another, named Robert, used self-deprecating humor to voice insecurities about his body. Rather than shaming him for not conforming to the societal expectation of thinness, the Fab 5 encouraged him to love the body he has, because it's uniquely his own.

What separates *Queer Eye* from other lifestyle-revamping shows is the fact that it focuses not on changing a person or making them conform to expectations or social molds, but rather bringing out the best of their individual personalities in a way that honors their identity. The goal isn't to make society love them, but to teach them how to love themselves. The rest, they say, will follow.

It's easy to see how the natural chemistry between the Fab 5 has evolved over the course of the three seasons, culminating in a loving, familial bond. They've found their rhythm, honed their skills and perfected the ways in which they apply their life experiences to a shared narrative. Their emotions are raw and real, and when Tan tears up in the fifth episode, “Black Girl Magic,” it's hard not to cry too.

Season 3 gives us more people of color, a single father, a lesbian, two sisters with their own business, soon-to-be newlyweds and more. It tackles topics of grief, loss, addiction and fear without losing its positive vibes. Heroes find and embrace their chosen families as they embark on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance. It's hard to find a flaw in a show so wholeheartedly pure.

Granted, critics have insisted that



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Karamo Brown with “hero” Jody in the first episode of season 3 of *Queer Eye*, which premiered March 15.

the show isn't representative of modern queerness, arguing that the Fab 5 could be made up of more than five cisgender men. When the show's predecessor, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, hit television in the early 2000s, it was literally unheard of for a single gay character to be featured on-screen, let alone five. Times have changed a bit in the recent decade or so, and with shows like *Glee*, *Modern Family*, *Schitt's Creek*, and even newer adaptations of *Star Trek* featuring queer characters, a show whose whole schtick is LGBT inclusion could, in theory, step up its game.

With that being said, though, Season 3 of *Queer Eye* has featured a diverse set of heroes, and even though it would be nice to see more transgender folks than the one trans

man featured in Season 2, the show remains revolutionarily comprehensive.

Others argue that the Fab 5 are too gay, and that they play into stereotypes about gay culture. This, to me, seems like pulling at straws trying to find something wrong with a good thing. It's a wonderful sign of increasing tolerance that men like Jonathan Van Ness can be openly and flamboyantly themselves on television and attract not only an audience, but a fan base, as well.

Queer Eye continues to set a precedent for queer inclusion, telling stories of success and triumph rather than the turmoil that once pervaded gay media. Nothing can please everyone, and no show is perfect, but as far as I'm concerned, *Queer Eye* comes remarkably close.

Celebrities pay off universities

SCANDAL — from page 5

apply to college, then they must decide immediately or give up on their dreams.

This practice stems from a culture that drives universities to constantly need to sell themselves. Want evidence? The Princeton Review. It literally exists to subjectively compare and rate universities, emerging from this nationwide craze for colleges to seem like every student's one-way ticket to success.

The final travesty is that admissions officers are completely knowledgeable of the problem. Alumni relations departments keep tabs on graduates, so universities are acutely aware of how their graduates proceed after leaving school. Hundreds of studies have been released asserting that the "best" students are the ones who are personally engaged and organically motivated by their studies. I didn't come to Duquesne because I was enthralled by security studies, in fact the major didn't exist until my second semester, but I showed up to orientation because I wanted to discover what I wanted to study, not because of my yearning for a golden ticket.

Universities caught in this cheating scandal will probably avoid too much damage to their reputations, but it's high time we examine the college admissions process and its effects upon our self-esteem, motivation and overall rate of success. Our current method and its focus on competitive comparisons is holistically destructive to students everywhere.

I'm not here to say that competition itself is bad, but like most things, competition abides by the law of diminishing marginal returns. Too much competition creates an incentive to cheat the system, and in a system as subjective as education, cheating will only ruin it for everybody.

Mass shooters should not be granted notoriety

STAFF ED — from page 4

firearms are incited by similar events in the immediate past," estimating that the likelihood of a copycat shooting increases in the two weeks following a mass shooting.

Additionally, in January 2019, the FBI closed an investigation into the Mandalay Bay shooter's possible motives, having arrived at the conclusion that there was no true motivation behind the killings; only a desire for infamy.

Based on these studies, Ardern's approach is one that we must move toward adopting, lest another violent attack like this happen again. Limiting the naming and examination of shoot-

ers in news stories is a small price to pay if it could mean preventing future violence. European countries such as Finland already operate on this basis; we in America should seriously consider following that example.

The man who carried out the Christchurch attack is a domestic terrorist, and he deserves no further media attention than that classification. What we should focus on is the victims — lives destroyed by this unwarranted violence — as a reminder of what we need to remedy to prevent these senseless attacks from continuing as has become commonplace in our world.



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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

52° Mostly cloudy; spotty showers

Friday

43° A couple of afternoon squalls

Saturday

46° Mostly sunny; breezy

Sunday

56° Sun, then clouds; milder

Monday

53° Clouds and breaks of sun

Tuesday

42° Periods of sun; colder

Wednesday

50° Sun and some clouds

Courtesy of AccuWeather



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